

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 130530Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7831

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 0323

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, VS, MI

SUBJECT: RVN - MALAWI

REF: LONDON 03617

1. UNLESS THERE ARE IMPORTANT ADVANTAGES IN TERMS U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST IN ESTABLISHMENT RVN RELATIONS WITH GOM SUFFICIENT TO WARRANT INTERCESSION ON BEHALF RVN AT HIGHEST LEVEL, I.E. PRESIDENT BANDA, I DO NOT THINK IT APPROPRIATE TRY ASSIST RVN WITH ITS REQUEST. VERY DOUBTFUL THAT GOM WOULD ACCEDE IN ANY CASE.

2. PATTERN INCREASINGLY EMERGING IS FOR MALAWI TO SEE FIRST TO ITS OWN AFRICAN INTERESTS AND THESE INVOLVE FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS WITH AFRICAN NEIGHBORS, MOST OF WHOM ESCHEW RVN (AND ROK) CONNECTIONS IN PREFERENCE TO THOSE WITH ASIAN COMMUNIST STATES. FORMER SUPPORT OF MALAWI FOR U.S. ASIAN ALLIES IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS HAS SUBSTANTIALLY WEAKENED OVER PAST TWO YEARS WITH PATTERN OF ABSTENTION NOW CLEARLY IN EVIDENCE. MOREOVER, GOM WITH REASON CONCERNED OVER ITS EVENTUAL RELATIONS WITH FRELIMO - CONTROLLED MOZAMBIQUE WHICH WILL LIKELY HAVE RELATIONS WITH HANOI. ACCESS TO PORTS OF NACALA AND BEIRA VITAL TO MALAWI ECONOMY.

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